

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 28-35 remain pending in this application. New claims 36-40 have been added. No claims have been canceled.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

**35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103**

Claims 28-31 and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koizumi et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,789,986). Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi et al. These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to a data coincident method among the elements which connect with other elements located in a nearby area. This method includes a step of determining whether or not a previously defined event as a starting trigger of a coincidence processing has occurred if an established time has arrived or the time period of an established cycle has elapsed since the execution of previous incidence coincidence processing. The transmitting of the coincidence request is by wireless communication to the group of elements. The data coincident method also includes a step of determining whether or not the common data for one of the elements must be updated according to the largest number of the common data and

significance level correspondence to a data update obtained from a group of the elements. Similar limitations are contained in the apparatus claim of claim 40.

On the other hand, Koizumi et al discloses a plurality of devices connected by a transmission line, as opposed to being wirelessly connected. In addition, Koizumi et al do not disclose that it is determined whether or not common data for one of the elements must be updated according to the largest number of the common data and significance level corresponding to the data obtained from a group of elements. This is disclosed, by way of example, at steps 11-19 in Fig. 5 (see specification, pages 8-12).

The Examiner refers to column 5, lines 14-19 and column 6, lines 33-36 of Koizumi et al for allegedly disclosing the "whereby" clause in claim 28. However, column 5, lines 14-19 of Koizumi et al merely disclose checking whether both FC and RFC of the received data have been registered in a registration table 5011. This portion does not suggest determining whether one of the received data is coincident among all of the received data. Furthermore, column 6, lines 33-36, of Koizumi et al discloses that the process returns to step 1011 after collection flag 5101 and flag counters are cleared. This portion does not disclose or suggest returning to step 1011 if the received data is not coincident among all of the received data.

According to the present invention, coincidence processing is repeated until all of the data is coincident if all of the common data obtained from the group of elements is not coincident. This is yet another point of distinction between the present invention and Koizumi et al.

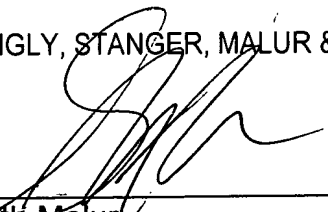
Finally, Koizumi et al disclose that correct data is selected by using the majority rule, as pointed out by the Examiner on page 6 of the Office Action. However, Koizumi et al does not disclose or suggest using the significance level corresponding to the data update obtained from a group of elements as recited in claims 28 and 40. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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